Conversion of highways into four lanes in Madhya Pradesh

†3073. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for converting some highways into four lanes under 'Pradhanmantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana'; and

(b) if so, by when sanction would be accorded to the said works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) There is no programme at present named as 'Pardhanmantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana' for converting National Highways into four lanes.

(b) Does not arise.

Dilution of reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags

3074. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware of the impact of diluting reservation norms on the jute growers and industry; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal with the Government to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent.

(c) and (d) The reservation for Jute Packaging Material for packaging of foodgrains under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 leads to consumption of around 58% of the jute produced in the country. By bringing into effect the provision of JPM Act the Government provides relief to 37 lakh workers employed in Jute Mills and ancillary units as well as support the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families. Besides, it helps to protect the environment because jute in a natural, biodegradable and reusable fibre. The dilution, if any, is affected in the packaging norms only after consultation with stakeholders to avoid disruption of foodgrain procurement in the country.

Non-availability of cotton in textile industry

†3075. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's textile industry is facing the crisis of cotton availability;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian textile industry is unable to meet the export oriented demand even in the wake of increased prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the immediate steps being taken by Government for the solution in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir.

(b) As per Cotton Balance Sheet drawn by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), during cotton season 2009-10, the cotton production in the country has been estimated at 295.00 lakh bales as against 290.00 lakh bales of last year. With carry forward stock of 71.50 lakh bales of the previous year and estimated imports of 7 lakh bales the total availability of cotton in the country during 2009-10 has been placed at 305 lakh bales with an estimated export of 55 lakh bales. Thus, even after meeting the domestic and export requirement, there is ample availability of cotton in the country and the CAB has estimated carry over stock for the next year at 68.50 lakh bales. Hence, the question of textile industry facing the crisis on account of cotton availability does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

Programmes for strengthening textile industry

3076. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had worked on several programmes which include strengthening industry, providing funds for modernization and technology upgradation and making textile parks operational which were started during 100 days of Government;

(b) whether additional initiatives have been taken for skill development and welfare of people engaged in handicrafts, handlooms, powerlooms and sericulture sectors; and

(c) if so, to what extent these measures have helped in textiles and in improving its exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In order to facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textile mills, Government of India had launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile and jute Industries with effect from 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years which was subsequently extended upto 31.3.2007 and further extended during Eleventh Five Year Plan. In its operational life span has propelled investment of more than Rs. 1,79,833 crores upto 30.6.2009. In fact, the allocation for 2007-08 under TUFS was Rs. 1090 crore which has been enhanced to Rs. 2890 crore in 2009-10.